XV. *A remarkable Inſtance of the happy Effect of* Muſk, *in a very dangerous Caſe*; *by* James Parſons, *M. D. F. R. S.*

Read Feb. 20. 1745-6. MR. *Darlington*, who lodges at the *Cheſhire Cheeſe* below *Charing-Croſs*, a Man of a robuſt Habit of Body, was taken ill about the Beginning of *December* laſt of a *Rheumatic Fever*, attended with the Loſs of the Uſe of his Limbs, exceſſive Pain in every Part, and Swellings in his Knees and Hands, with all the other Symptoms uſual in this kind of Fever: Beſides which he cough'd up grumous Blood, and had a Pain which was very violent in his right Side, from a Fall againſt the Edge of a Table, a few Days before he was ſeiz'd with this Fever, which render'd his Caſe the more dangerous.

During the firſt ten Days he was attended by his Apothecary only; who, finding him grow worſe, propoſed a Phyſician, who was accordingly called in, and order'd a Bleeding, with ſuch other Remedies as he thought neceſſary: This, I underſtood, was the ſecond time he had been let Blood. But the Patient by this time was ſo averſe to taking Medicines, that he did not duly follow the Method order'd by this Gentleman, and at length abſolutely refuſed to take any more, and ſo diſcharged the Doctor on the fourth Day of his Attendance.

On the fifteenth Day of his Illneſs he ſent for me, having been formerly concerned for ſome of his Family. I found his Symptoms increaſed, and

his Diſeaſe gaining Ground apace. I had him let Blood immediately, which was one third Part Size, and order'd it to be repeated, and put him under ſuch a Regimen as the State of his Caſe then required; but as ſoon as I was gone, he refuſed to comply with my Preſcriptions alſo. I expreſs'd my Concern for his obſtinate Temper, and left him on my fourth Viſit.

Thus were eighteen Days paſſed, and his Caſe growing more deſperate every Day. I heard no more of him till five Days after, which was on the twenty-third Day of his Diſeaſe, when I was intreated to viſit him again, and found him moſt miſerably afflicted with two of the moſt dangerous Symptoms that can appear at the End of ſuch a dangerous Diſtemper; *viz.* a long *Intermiſſion* of his *Pulſe* every third or fourth Stroke, and a moſt fatiguing *Hiccup*, which ſtruck him violently about ten times in a Minute.

His Caſe was now deplorable and deſperate (thro' his own Folly), and what I was almoſt ready to give up, eſpecially as he was then very weak and delirious: However, willing to aſſiſt him, and calling to Mind the Accounts of the Musk ſome time ſince communicated to this Learned *Society* *, was reſolved to have recourſe to it here. Accordingly I directed a Draught, conſiſting of an Ounce and half of ſtrong Cinamon-water, two Drams of compound Piony-water, and fifteen Grains of *Musk*, with Orders to increaſe the Doſe of Musk to twenty Grains, and repeat the Draught every ſix Hours. I alſo told his Wife to give him a Glaſs of Sack, as often as he would have it; and at the ſame time cauſed three Bliſtering Plaiſters to

* See theſe *Tranſ.* *n.* 474, *p.* 212.

to be laid on to his Neck and Arms, which, among other things, he had refuſed before.

In four Hours after the firſt Draught the intermitting Pulſe was alter'd to a very calm regular one; but the Hiccup continued with the ſame Violence, till he had taken the fifth Draught; and then return'd only once in ſix or ſeven Minutes.

His Senſes were now reſtored, and he grew chearful and eaſy, and ſaid, he would take no more of any kind whatſoever: But, being unwilling to ceaſe the Exhibition of a Medicine which bid ſo fair for his Recovery, I gave him a Glaſs of Sack, into which the ſixth Draught was privately pour'd, which took away his Hiccup intirely.

The next Day he had an Appetite to eat, and was indulged by his Wife with a large Chicken, a great deal of Bread, and a Pint of Beer and Ale, which he eat greedily: This overcharg'd his Stomach, and brought on his Hiccup again, which fatigued him much, before I viſited him in the Afternoon. Whereupon I directed a purging Draught immediately, which emptied him well, and conquer'd his Hiccup, and every other bad Symptom.

Next Day I found him well, limited his Diet for a few Days, with Directions to repeat his Purge once more, after three Days; and in a Fortnight he went abroad.

The Bliſters might perhaps conduce, in ſome meaſure, to do him Service; but, as the Man was ſo many Days ill, and reduced to a Condition very little, if at all, better than that of a dying Man, I believe the *Musk*, rather than the Bliſters, was the Medicine that reſtored him: For I have often ſeen the

the latter applied in a greater Number in vain, even when the Symptoms were not ſo ſeemingly deſperate as in the Caſe before you.

He took near one hundred and five Grains of Musk in about thirty Hours; but I can't ſay he either ſlept or perſpired more than ordinary upon it.

XVI. *Part of a Letter from the Rev. Dr.* Miles, *F.R.S. to Mr.* Henry Baker, *F.R.S. concerning* Electrical Fire.

Dear Sir,

Read Feb. 20. 1745-6. YOU query, Whether that ſubtil Fire which kindles warm'd Spirit of Wine, be reſident in the Body from which it evidently iſſues, and be kindled occaſionally? or, Whether it comes from the excited Tube pervading inſtantaneouſly the Body it is applied to? or, Laſtly, whether there are certain Principles in the Air, which are thus agitated into an extemporaneous Lightning? Theſe Queries are certainly very comprehenſive and important; I wiſh I were able to return you ſomewhat more ſatisfactory than Suppoſitions.

I incline to think the electrical and luminous *Effluvia* to be the ſame, and not diſtinct Subſtances. Mr. *Hauksbee* ſeems to diſtinguiſh them, intimating, that no luminous Matter would be communicated from an excited Cylinder of Wax to his Finger, when brought near to the Cylinder, though it attracted light Bodies; but it is to be obſerved, that this Cylinder